

Serial No. 10/580,880 RECEIVED
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Complete Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$, comprising;

- i) ~~1 to 50 wt%~~ 2 to 20 wt% of at least a self-crosslinkable resin;
- ii) 0.25 to 20 wt% of at least a catalyst selected from the group consisting of $MgCl_2$, ammonium chloride, ammonium sulphate, ammonium salt of formic acid, ammonium salt of boric acid, ammonium salt of phosphoric acid, ammonium salt of oxalid acid, and combinations thereof;
- iii) 0.1 to 4 wt% of at least an antimicrobial active agent, reactive with the resin, said antimicrobial active agent being selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, biguanides, monoguanides, and combinations thereof;
- iv) ~~98.65 to 26 wt%~~ 75 to 97 wt% of water;

wherein i) + ii) + iii) + iv) = 100%

2. (Original) A composition according to claim 1 where the non-cellulosic fibres have an acid value ≤ 5 mmol/kg.

3. (Currently Amended) A composition for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of ≤ 5 mmol/kg, comprising;

- i) ~~1 to 50 wt%~~ 2 to 20 wt% of at least a self-crosslinkable resin;
- ii) 0.25 to 20 wt% of at least a catalyst selected from the group consisting of $MgCl_2$, ammonium chloride, ammonium chloride, ammonium sulphate, ammonium salt of

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formic acid, ammonium salt of boric acid, ammonium salt of phosphoric acid, ammonium salt of oxalid acid, and combinations thereof;

iii) 0.1 to 4 wt% of at least an antimicrobial active agent, reactive with the resin, said antimicrobial active agent being selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, biguanides, monoguanides, and combinations thereof;

iv) ~~98.65 to 26 wt%~~ 75 to 97 wt% of water;

wherein i) + ii) + iii) + iv) = 100%

4. (Original) A composition according to claim 3 where the non-cellulosic fibres have a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$.

5. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 where the non-cellulosic fibres are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyamide, polypropylene, polyurethane and cellulose acetate.

6. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 where the self-crosslinkable resin is an amino resin.

7. (Original) A composition according to claim 6 where the self-crosslinkable resin is a formaldehyde condensate with urea or melamine.

8. (Original) A composition according to claim 7 where the self-crosslinkable resin is selected from dimethyloldihydroxyethylene urea and dihydroxydimethylene urea.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 9 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ where the catalyst is poly(hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride.

12. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 where the antimicrobial active agent is selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, biguanides, monoguanides, and or mixtures thereof.

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13. (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$, comprising stages:

- A) contacting the fibres with a composition according to claim 1;
- B) optionally drying the fibres contacted with the composition; and
- C) curing the fibres contacted with the composition to effect crosslinking of the resin.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 where the non-cellulosic fibres have an acid value of ≤ 5 mmol/kg.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of ≤ 5 mmol/kg, comprising stages:

- A) contacting the fibres with a composition according to claim 3 ~~claim 1~~;
- B) optionally drying the fibres contacted with the composition; and
- C) curing the fibres contacted with the composition to effect crosslinking of the resin.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15 where the non-cellulosic fibres have a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 16~~ claim 13 where stage C) is carried out at temperatures in the range of from 100 to 180°C.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 17~~ claim 13 where stage C) is carried out for a time in the range of from 30 seconds to 5 minutes.

19. (Currently Amended) Non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$ carrying a composition comprising:

- (a) 1 to 10 wt% by weight of the non-cellulosic fibres of at least a self-crosslinkable resin being a formaldehyde condensate with urea or melamine; and
- (b) 0.1 to 1 wt% by weight of the non-cellulosic fibres of at least an antimicrobial active agent, reached with the resin, said antimicrobial active agent being selected from the

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group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, biguanides, monoguanides, and combinations thereof.

20. (Original) Non-cellulosic fibres according to claim 19 having an acid value of ≤ 5 mmol/kg.

21. (Currently Amended) Non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of ≤ 5 mmol/kg carrying a composition comprising:

(a) 1 to 10 wt% by weight of the non-cellulosic fibres of at least a self-crosslinkable resin being a formaldehyde condensate with urea or melamine; and

(b) 0.1 to 1 wt% by weight of the non-cellulosic fibres of at least an antimicrobial active agent, reacted with the resin, said antimicrobial active agent being selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, biguanides, monoguanides, and combinations thereof.

22. (Original) Non-cellulosic fibres according to claim 21 having a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$.

23. (Currently Amended) Non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$ treated with a composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11.~~

24. (Currently Amended) Non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of $\leq 5\%$ mmol/kg treated with a composition according to claim 3 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11.~~

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A composition for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$ and an acid value of ≤ 5 mmol/kg, comprising:

i) 2-20 wt% of at least a self-crosslinkable resin being a formaldehyde condensate with urea or melamine;

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ii) 0.25 to 20 wt% of at least a catalyst selected from the group consisting of $MgCl_2$, ammonium chloride, ammonium sulphate, ammonium salt of formic acid, ammonium salt of boric acid, ammonium salt of phosphoric acid and combinations thereof;

iii) 0.1 to 4 wt% of at least an antimicrobial active agent, reactive with the resin, said antimicrobial active agent being selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, biguanides, monoguanides, and combinations thereof;

iv) 75 to 97 wt% of water;

wherein i)+ii)+iii)+iv) = 100%.